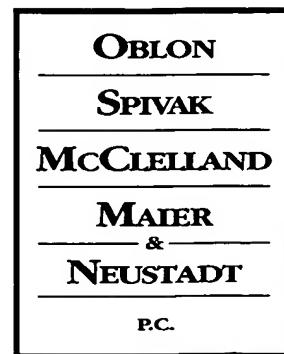


Docket No: 245386US3

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

STEVEN P. WEIHRUCH
(703) 413-3000
SWEIHRUCH@OBLON.COM

PHILIP J. HOFFMANN
(703) 413-3000
PHOFFMANN@OBLON.COM

RE: Application Serial No: 10/706,091
Applicants: Kiyohisa TATEYAMA et al.
Filing Date: November 13, 2003
For: DEVELOPING METHOD AND APPARATUS
Group Art Unit: 1752
Examiner: SCHILLING, RICHARD L.

SIR:

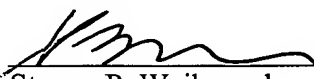
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Steven P. Weihrouch
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

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POCKET NO: 245386US3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

KIYOHISA TATEYAMA ET AL.

: EXAMINER: SCHILLING, RICHARD L.

SERIAL NO: 10/706,091

:

FILED: NOVEMBER 13, 2003

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1752

FOR: DEVELOPING METHOD AND APPARATUS

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated January 7, 2005, Applicant elects with traverse the invention of group I, Claims 1-5, 10, and 11.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reason.

MPEP § 803 states:

. . . If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-13 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



Steven P. Weihrouch
Registration No. 32,829

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340